



Space Observer

Friday, Sept. 13, 2002

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

Vol. 46 No. 35



Photo by Senior Airman Shane Sharp

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55 years*
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U.S. AIR FORCE



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TEAM Thoughts

By Chief Master Sgt. Vance Clarke
21st SW command chief master sergeant

As we reflect on the events of the last year and this past week's ceremonies, I ask you to reflect on what it is that makes a "team." Is it magic? A leader? A select group of followers?

Though it takes many things to make up a team, I believe the most important ingredient is a "common sense of purpose" and desire. We here at Peterson AFB have very diverse daily purposes, many of which don't appear to be in concert with one another, but I would propose that they are all needed and must be performed with a profound sense of "team work."

We are in the midst of performing missile warning, security, maintenance on facilities, planning for the future of space operations, and standing up Northern Command to name a few. We at Peterson are a diverse, incredibly professional, and important lot of folks.



We together, regardless of organization, service, or duty to perform, are a part of "Team Pete."

When I say Team Pete, I also mean the folks of Cheyenne Mountain, whether part of CMOC or the mighty 721st Support Group. The only problem is the "mountain folk" have a longer drive to get to "Pete proper."

Things like winning the NCO Academy "spirit award" mean a lot. We should focus on the fact that we live and work together on a great installation every day. Some of us have support functions and others are "pure users" of these services, providing something to other areas of our nation's defense.

As key members of Team 21, Team Pete, and Team America, I ask you all to know your part, perform it well, and be proud of what you do. I am. As you continue to reflect and move on, I know we will show everyone a small part of what "Team 21" and "Team Pete" are all about.

Air Force celebrates 55 years

WASHINGTON — The following is a joint message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

Fifty-five years ago, President Harry Truman, with a visionary stroke of his pen, established the U.S. Air Force as a separate armed service. Since then, we have revolutionized the nature of warfare and enabled a new universe of discovery and operations in space. With its attributes of speed, range, stealth, awareness and precision, our nation's outstanding Air Force will continue to deliver global reconnaissance and air dominance, as well as the great deterrent power those capabilities make possible.

From the days of providing humanitarian relief during the Berlin Airlift to the historic display of airpower during Operations Desert Storm and Allied Force, and now in the war on terrorism, our airmen have served with extraordinary integrity, selflessness, and dedica-

tion. Across the spectrum of operations, whether standing guard for deterrence, conducting joint combat operations, fulfilling our global expeditionary commitments, or defending the homeland, our Air Force has answered its nation's call. However, we cannot rest on our past successes. We must renew our commitment to adapt our current systems, modernize our force, and transform our air and space strategy to the challenges of this new era.

At the dawn of the 21st century, the importance of air and space dominance to the joint warfighter is clear. We owe much to the legends of airpower whose determination and vision resulted in an independent Air Force. Today we celebrate our heritage and look forward to a bright future thanks to airmen across the globe: active duty, civilian, Guard, Reserve, retirees, veterans and their families.

Happy Birthday to the world's premier air and space force, the U.S. Air Force!



Action Line

Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line is your direct link to the 21st Space Wing Commander—use it wisely! Try to resolve problems at the lowest level possible—with the person or activity, and then follow the chain of command.

Though it's not required, we ask that you leave your name and phone number so we can get back to you for clarifications, or if your response isn't printed.

If you can't get satisfactory results, then call (719) 556-7777. You may also fax your question to 556-7848.

Pool problems

QUESTION: Why do the Army soldiers from another base have priority in the base pool when I still need to do my PT preparation? I think this is unsatisfactory and I don't understand it.

ANSWER: Your experience appears to have been one perhaps of timing or perhaps assuming our sister

service had the entire pool. The Aquatics Center has six lanes available for lap swimming for active duty Monday-Friday, 5:30-9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m., and 5-6 p.m., as well as Saturdays from 10:30 a.m.-noon. On occasion, Army groups from Fort Carson will use two lanes for training purposes. Regardless of how many individuals are in the group, they are allowed a maximum of two lanes, leaving the remaining four lanes for active duty Air Force and Peterson personnel (Navy, Army, Canadians, and Marines assigned here). If, during regular lap swim hours, there are more than two swimmers per lane and there are active duty Air Force personnel waiting, the Army training group will be asked to stand by or postpone their training. The only time a training group is allowed to reserve the pool is between 9:30-10 a.m. when there is no lap swimming. If you need any additional information, call 556-4608.

Water works

QUESTION: Why don't they mow the grass at 4 inches instead of at 2 ½ inches? This will keep the

water in the ground longer and the grass won't dry out as fast, and then the sprinklers can be run every three days instead of every other day. Also, why don't they use a winterizer instead of a fertilizer? The winterizer will protect the grass during the winter and prevent winter kill. This will save money on replacing grass in the spring. Thank you.

ANSWER: Like many others, we share your concern during this time of severe drought. We currently mow at three inches. If the mowing height were raised to four inches, a majority of the pop-up sprinkler heads would not operate properly because of the grass height. A winterizer fertilizer is already used. We will continue to conform to the City of Colorado Springs watering policies and do our best to conserve water.

As a result of these and other conservation measures, we're gratified to report that we are exceeding the city's 20 percent reduction target for water conservation. If you have further questions, call 556-4297.



Space Observer

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A Moment in Time: September



■ On Sept. 13, 1943, more than 1,200 paratroopers were dropped over Salerno, Italy, without loss of one man or aircraft.

■ On Sept. 17, 1908, Lt Thomas Selfridge became the first person killed in a powered aircraft accident when a Wright Flyer, piloted by Orville Wright, crashed at Fort Myer, Va.

■ On Sept. 18, 1947, the Army Air Corps became a separate service called the US Air Force.

Information courtesy of Staff Sgt. Trisha Morgan, 21st Space Wing History Office.

Hispanic Heritage Month kicks off

By Senior Airman Shane Sharp
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

National Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sunday and runs through Oct. 15.

This year’s theme is “Hispanic Americans: Strength through unity, faith and diversity.”

“More than 30 million Americans claim Hispanic origins, contributing to every aspect of American life while preserving the customs and traditions of their ancestors,” said Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing commander. “Hispanic Heritage Month provides an opportunity to spotlight Hispanic contributions, reflect on their heritage, and educate ourselves on another culture that makes up a large part of our nation’s identity.”

The Peterson Hispanic Heritage Committee has planned several events and activities throughout the month to commemorate Hispanic heritage and educate others on the contributions and culture of Hispanic Americans.

“We want people to have a good time while observing Hispanic Heritage Month,” said Master Sgt. Leo Perez, Hispanic Heritage Committee president. “The month’s events are planned to provide an opportunity for base

members to learn more about Hispanic Heritage while having fun.”

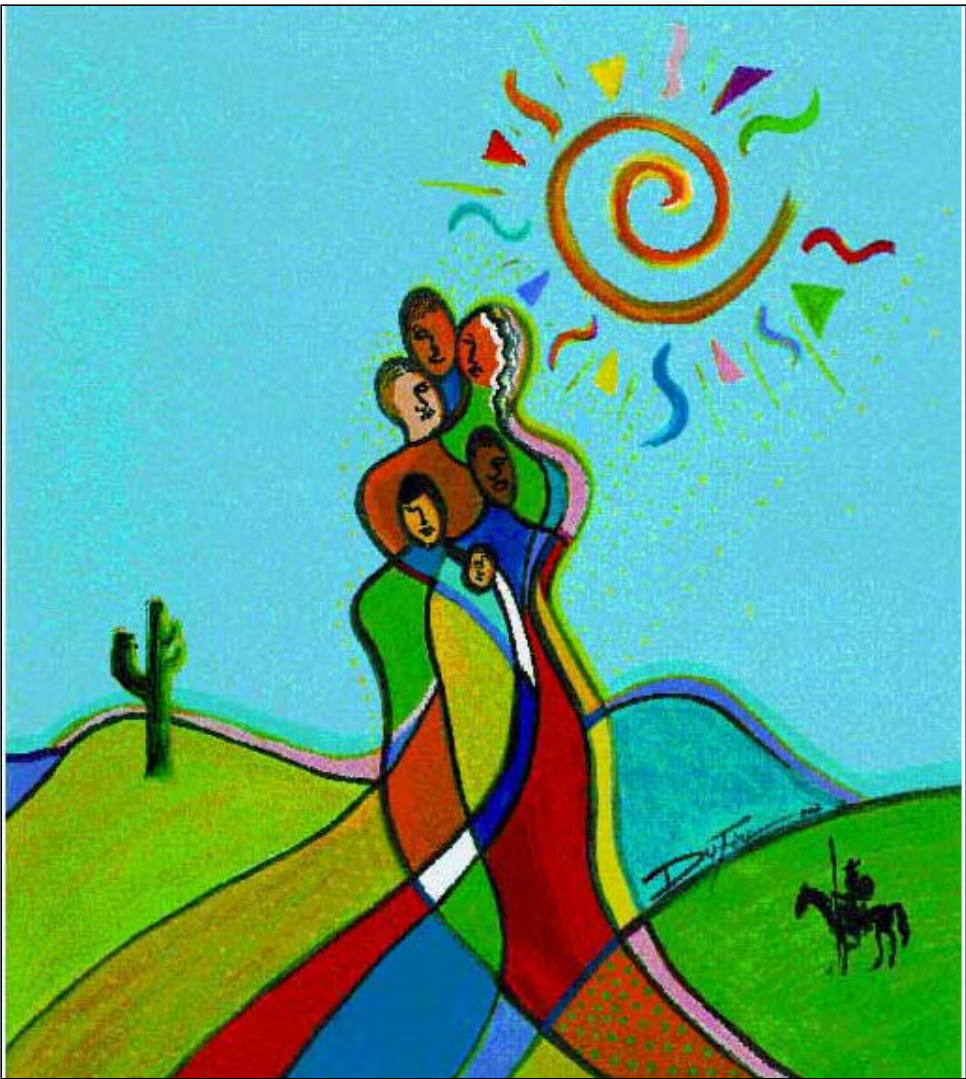
Some may think that only Hispanics should participate in the month’s activities, but according to Senior Airman Kelly Robles, Hispanic Heritage Committee vice president, that’s not the case.

“Hispanic Heritage Month events are open to all,” said Robles. “The entire base community is encouraged to attend and participate because Hispanic Heritage affects us all in one way or another and makes up a huge part of our nation’s heritage.”

Hispanic Heritage Month began as “National Hispanic Heritage Week” in September, 1968.

In 1988, Congress authorized the designation of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which was subsequently proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan.

Since then, America has celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 – Oct. 15. The specific dates were chosen for a reason. Seven out of 19 Spanish speaking Latin American countries celebrate their independence day between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15. The month also includes El Dia de la Raza (the Day of the People) on Oct. 12 (U.S. Columbus Day).



Hispanic Heritage Month calendar

Sunday

- Catholic Mass, 9:30 a.m. at the Chapel
- one reading in spanish and one song in spanish to kick off HH Month

Oct. date/time TBD

- picnic with live band

Oct. 11

- Luncheon, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Guest speaker: Fifth president of Pikes Peak Community College

Oct. 13

- Spanish/English mass, 9:30 a.m.
- children sing spanish songs



Photo by Capt. Don Kerr



Photo by Budd Butcher

Dedicating the Delta Dart

Above: Brig. Gen. Duane Deal (left), 21st Space Wing commander and former F-106 pilot, and retired Brig. Gen. Mike Drennan (middle), president of the Peterson Museum Foundation, listen to the reflections offered by retired Col. Ralph Bowersox during the F-106 Delta Dart dedication at the museum Monday. Col. Bowersox was a former F-106 pilot and is currently the local flight captain of the Order of the Daedalians. Faces among those in attendance included the “Green Jacket” Daedalians, plus former crew and maintenance personnel who worked in the F-106 program. The F-106 restoration, led by the 144th Fighter Wing (CA Air National Guard) from Fresno, Calif., took almost three weeks to complete and included repairs to the nose, bomb bay, and other areas. The aircraft was also recently painted to reflect its original colors. The F-106 is the fastest, single-engine aircraft ever flown in the world.

Left: Wearing the orange flight suit he wore as a captain, Brig. Gen. Deal reminisces about his days flying the F-106 and the legends of the aircraft.



POW/MIA DAY

A POW/MIA day ceremony is scheduled for next Friday, Sept. 20, 8 a.m., at the Remembrance Wall by the base chapel. The ceremony will include tributes to an MIA from each service and features guest speaker Edwin H. Beck (a WWII POW). The ceremony will be followed by refreshments at the chapel, courtesy of the Air Force Sergeants Association.

HEART LINK SPOUSE ORIENTATION

Heart Link is a Spouse Orientation Program developed for spouses who have been married fewer than five years and are new to the military lifestyle. The goal of this program is to promote spouse awareness of the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocol and support resources and services available to them. Heart Link focuses on the importance of the spouse as a critical part of the Air Force team, and provides participants with information about community resources that are available to help them and their

families. All of the activities are presented in an interactive manner designed to make the experience both worthwhile and enjoyable for the spouses. The first meeting is scheduled for Sept. 25, 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m., at the Peterson Enlisted Club. Refreshments and lunch are provided. Spouses interested in participating should contact Jane Gutierrez at the Family Support Center (556-6141).

USNORTHCOM ACTIVATION, U.S.SPACE TRANSITION

A ceremony in which United States Space Command will case the command’s colors in preparation for transition into the new USSTRATCOM and the formal activation for United States Northern Command is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 1, in Hangar 1 (Building 140). Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will preside over the ceremonies. Base security will be heightened due to numbers and levels of people attending the ceremony. The ceremony is open only to invited guests and peo-

ple with access to the base.

MILITARY CITIZENSHIP PROCESS CHANGE

President Bush recently signed an Executive Order expediting the naturalization process for aliens and non-citizen nationals serving on active duty status during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Typically a military member must wait three years before applying for citizenship. This order permits those members serving honorably in active duty status from Sept. 11, 2001, to apply immediately. Air Force Personnel Center can assist Air Force members with the application process.

NEW HELP DESK SERVES PETERSON

To provide greater support to customers, the 21st Communications Squadron has opened a new help desk in the 21st CS building (Building 1038). The help desk provides the same “walk-up” services available at the main help desk in Building 1, to include issuing new accounts, and validating photo identification for resetting passwords. All cur-

rent procedures for the submission of network access requests and prerequisites for obtaining a new account are unchanged. Building 1038 is located between Lodging and the Officers’ Club.

EDUCATION OFFICE

■ New testing hours -- The testing office has changed its hours to Monday through Thursday. Testing begins at 9 a.m. and noon and Fridays at 9 a.m. Examinees must arrive 15 minutes prior to testing time to sign in.

■ Project management certificate -- Colorado Technical University offers a Certificate Program on Peterson AFB in Project Management. The first course will begin Oct. 7. Call Bob Golightly (590-6703) or Laura Meyer (590-6711) for more information.

NCO ACADEMY OPENING

The Peterson Air Force Base NCO Academy has an opening for an instructor.

Applicants must be active duty technical sergeants with an associate’s degree from an

accredited institution, meet weight standards, be willing to commit to a four-year controlled tour, and have completed the NCO Academy course. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Rosemarie Stange at 556-1993.

OWC FUNCTION

The Peterson Officers Wives’ Club will have its first function 6:30 p.m., Sept. 19, at the Officers’ Club.

For details, call Kimberly Willoughby at 574-8500.

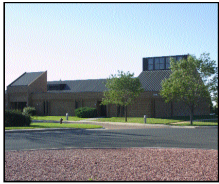
NO DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITING

The start of the school year signals the start of numerous fund-raising activities for children. This results in children (and/or their parents) soliciting for sales of various items.

This practice is prohibited, whether door-to-door in family housing, the dorms, TLFs, or in work areas. However, anyone who wants to set up a sales table at the BX (for sales at that point) can submit a request to the 21st SPTG commander for approval/disapproval.



At the
Base
Chapel



Protestant
Liturgical Worship,
8:15 a.m.
Traditional Sunday Worship
11 a.m.
Gospel Services, 12:30 p.m.

Catholic
Weekday Mass, 11:35 a.m.
Saturdays, 5 p.m.
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Reconciliation
Saturdays, 4 p.m.

Religious Education
Catholic and Protestant
Sunday School classes
begin at 8:30 and 9:45
a.m. respectively. Call
the Chapel for details.

**For more
information
Call the chapel at
556-4442 for available
chapel programs.

Blotter

The following real-life events with real individuals from around the Peterson Complex are presented to inform you of crimes, accidents, and events occurring on our base.

The following entries were taken from hundreds recorded in the Peterson Police Blotter recently:

***Editor's note: Although the Space Observer staff may make light of some Blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional Security Forces treat each incident seriously.*

Building 1, Cart O - Sept. 4

While driving one of the base's electric carts, the driver rounded a corner a bit too sharply, scraping the cart against the building. The building

won the match and was unscathed, leaving an 8-inch crack on the cart and minor damage to the cart's fender.

Yer grounded! - Sept. 4

Security Forces were contacted by a base housing resident stating an unknown juvenile threw a rock at his back sliding glass window causing no damage. He said that he pursued the juvenile down McChord away from his quarters and lost contact with him in the cul-de-sac.

911 Medical Response – Sept. 4

A driver approached the West gate and reported she was vomiting blood while driving, and needed medical assistance. The Fire Department and an ambulance responded, and transported the individual to Evans Hospital for further treatment.

Tool thief - Sept. 4

A civilian called the Security Forces Control Center to report that several tools worth over \$900 from his work site trailer at the Mission Support Facility were stolen. He stated that all of the tools were accounted for at the end of the workday. When he returned for work a few days later, he noticed that the tools were missing.

What's your rush? - Sept. 5

Security Forces and the Fire Department responded when a commissary worker helping a customer take out their groceries was struck by a grocery cart which had been hit by a car in the commissary parking lot. An ambulance transported the victim to the hospital for further treatment. All drivers are reminded to observe posted speeds, and to watch where they're going!

Cowardly car-crasher strikes - Sept. 5

Security Forces responded to a housing resident on McGuire

Street who reported that person(s) unknown had shattered the driver's side rear window of his van between 4 and 5 Sept. Investigation is ongoing.

Spare the rod, spoil the car - Sept. 5

A driver contacted the Security Forces to report her car was stranded at the corner of Peterson and Stewart. Investigation revealed the driver's side front tire rod broke, causing the vehicle to be unsafe to drive. A towing firm eventually responded to tow the car to an off-base automotive service.

Go to your corner - Sept. 7

Security Forces were called by a military member stating that four men came to his dorm room wanting to fight, and that one hit him. After throwing the punch, his friends attempted to restrain him, but he got free and lunged one last time at the victim. Statements and photos were taken, and the individuals released to their first sergeants.

Lock your doors - Sept. 8

A military member called the Security Forces Control Center stating \$100 had been taken from her purse, which was left in her unlocked vehicle. It's always advised to keep your vehicle locked at all times.

Don't leave home without it - Sept. 9

Security Forces were contacted by a military member who stated that her credit card had been stolen. She had contacted her credit card to cancel, but was told that there were numerous recent charges on her card.

Vile Vandals vex trailer - Sept. 9

Security Forces responded to a report of four windows being broken in a construction trailer at the Youth Center between Sep 8 and 9. Investigation is ongoing.

(Anyone witnessing an unlawful act should call the Security Forces at 556-4000.)





AFSPC celebrates 20 years

By Senior Airman Shane Sharp
[21st Space Wing Public Affairs](#)

Members of the Air Force space community gathered to celebrate the command's past and look forward to its future during Air Force Space Command's 20th Anniversary Ball Sept. 7 at the Peterson Air Force Base Officers' Club.

Under Secretary of the Air Force Peter B. Teets was on hand, together with Gen. Lance Lord, AFSPC commander, and several former AFSPC commanders to commemorate the two decades of space since 1982.

"It's really a celebration of the wonderful men and women who have worked so hard here in Air Force Space Command," said Lord.

Teets, who was the guest speaker at the event, gave recognition to AFSPC's past leaders.

"The vision that gave birth to Air Force Space Command 20 years ago has been realized," said Teets. "I think for that we owe a great debt to all of Air Force Space Command's former commanders and especially to Gen. (James V.) Hartinger who led the charge."

The state of Colorado was represented by Senator Ron May who attended the ball on behalf of Governor Bill Owens. May read a proclamation from Owens proclaiming Sept. 7 as Air Force Space Command 20th Anniversary Day in the state of Colorado. The proclama-

tion had this to say about the men and women of AFSPC:

"We owe America's airmen our unwavering support in their resolute pursuit of Air Force Space Command's vision to ensure it remains the world's best space and missile team for the next crisis, the next war, and any uncertainty in the future," read May.

According to Teets, the past has been the path to becoming the world's best space and missile team.

"I'm pleased with the changes that we've already achieved with regard to the way our nation is organizing and equipping itself with space capabilities," said Teets.

"Twenty years ago, the need for warfighting support and the need to operationalize space was recognized by senior Air Force leaders and is the reason Air Force Space Command was formed," said Teets. "I think we can best characterize the last 20 years as the successful culmination of our nation's ability to provide space support to the war fighter."

Teets also said AFSPC's past has led up to a successful present, and points to a promising future.

"Our determined response after the horrific events of almost a year ago, and our resounding success in combat in Afghanistan, were aided immensely – one might even say decisively – by our space capabilities," said Teets. "As our country goes forth to win this war



Photos by Eugene Chavez

Gen. Lance W. Lord, AFSPC commander, and Mickey Hartinger, wife of retired Gen. James V. Hartinger, the first commander of AFSPC, cut the AFSPC birthday cake, celebrating 20 years of AFSPC.

on terrorism, it will be our space capabilities that make the deciding difference."

"I'm proud of the way we've served our nation's cause in supporting war fighters in Afghanistan. And I'm excited about the possibilities ahead," he said.

"What do the next 20 years hold for space command? Well, just as the last 20 years have been the highly successful process of improving space support to the warfighter, the next 20 will be the process of developing the space war fighters," said Teets.

Continuously developing space

capabilities is key to the future according to Teets.

"Our future adversaries are not going to give us a free pass without opposition on the use of space capabilities in future conflicts," said Teets. "And we're not going to give our future adversaries who develop effective space capabilities a free pass to use them against us."

"It's really quite straightforward: Space capabilities are now an integral part of our warfighting force, and we're going to have to think about them more and more as combat forces themselves."



Under Secretary of the Air Force Peter B. Teets addresses attendees during Air Force Space Command's 20th Anniversary Ball Sept. 7 at the Peterson Air Force Base Officers' Club.

A T Y O U R S E R V I C E

Story time welcomes all ages

By 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout
[21st Space Wing Public Affairs](#)

Every Wednesday, the Peterson Library opens its doors to children’s story time at 10:15 a.m.

Children and their parents gather in the children’s reading room where they participate in readings with one of the librarians.

Kathy Kucharski, Library Director, Contract Manager, and Children’s Librarian, has been reading to children for over three years now.

Kucharski makes all the readings interactive so that children will have some fun and pay attention at the same time.

This week she read *The King’s Pudding*, and each time she said the word

“Stop!” children immediately raised their hands together as if to say “Stop!”

Kucharski also introduced new children in the area to Colorado snow while reading *When it Starts to Snow*.

Another book which fascinated the children was *I Want a Pet*. Here Kucharski read the line, “Chocolate éclairs are my favorite.” One child responded with, “Me, too!”

At the end of the reading, each child received a stamp of a dog on one arm and a cat on the other. Each stamp was purposefully placed on the child’s arm so that when lunchtime would roll around, and parents would wash their hands, the stamps wouldn’t be cleaned off. All the children get very excited and happy when they



Photos by 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

Each Wednesday morning preschool children sit and listen to about five stories at the base library.

are involved in story time. “The best part about this are the kids,” said Kucharski. “If you can get them to cock-a-doodle-doo with you, then you know that they really love being there.”

Each week draws in about 10 to 15 preschool children.

Kucharski usually chooses no less than five books for the reading. When children appear to get antsy, she involves them in a drawing exercise that reflects the readings of the day.

Afterward, children or parents can borrow the books that were read during story time.

“This program is very

important because I firmly believe when you read you do succeed,” she said. “It’s not how much you write, but it’s what you read that makes you a better writer and reader.”

Over the course of the year, the library runs different programs for children. Recently, the library finished the *Catch a Dragon by the Tail* reading program. About 80 children participated in this program. Each time a half an hour of reading was accomplished, a dot would be painted inside an outline of a dragon. These dragons are painted on the window of the children’s reading room. The end of the summer totaled about 2,600 dots.



Children received stamps of cats and dogs after listening to a story about pets.

SERVICES CALENDARS

At the Officers’ Club		September 15 -- Brunch, 10:30 a.m.- 1p.m.	September 17 -- Steak Night, 6-8 p.m.	September 19 -- King Crab, 6-8 p.m.
At the Enlisted Club		September 18-- Family night, Mexican buffet, 5-7 p.m.	September -- 25 Family night buffet, 5-7 p.m.	September -- 26 Family night buffet 5-7 p.m.
At Outdoor Recreation		September 16 -- PADI Scuba Diver Certification Class	September17 -- PADI Scuba Diver Certification Class	September 19 -- PADI Scuba Diver Certification Class

This Week

Monday

■ CAP members get \$5/hr discount on aircraft, at the Aero Club.

Tuesday

■ Sponsorship Training, 7:30-8:30 a.m., at the Family Support Center.

■ Resume Review, 9-11 a.m., at the Family Support Center

■ Stained Glass Class, at the Community Activities Center.

■ Dog Obedience Class, 6-8 p.m., at the Community Activities Center.

■ Session II Lesson Registration, at the Aquatics Center.

Wednesday

■ Air Force Birthday, half price bowling all day at the Bowling Center.

■Framing Class, at the Community Activities Center.

■ Story time 10:15 a.m., at the Library.

■ Basic Computer Skills, 3:30 p.m., at the Youth and Teen Center.

Thursday

■ Career Marketing, 8a.m.-noon, at the Family Support Center.

■Framing Class, at the Community Activities Center.

■ Ladies Day, 8-9:30a.m., at the Silver Spruce Golf Course

■ Keystone Meeting, 4 p.m., at the Youth and Teen Center.

Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers’ Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support 556-6141
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Aragon Menu Line 556-4782
- Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- Golf Course 556-7810

This Week

Oh say does that star spangled banner yet wave ...



By Capt. Don Kerr
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The ceremony began at 8:10 a.m. sharp, with a solemn playing of Taps and the Peterson Fire Department Honor Guard lowering the flag in honor of those who are no longer with us as a result of the actions that will forever be associated

with Sept. 11.

As over a hundred Peterson Complex personnel huddled around the flagpole plaza on an unusually gray, blustery morning in early September, three narrators told the events of that fateful day, and reminded us all of the strength of our American resolve.

A little later that night, standing on

Ellis Island, President Bush reminded the country of our resolve and our call to duty.

"There's a line in our time and every time between the defenders of human liberty and those who seek to master the minds and souls of others. Our generation has now heard history's call and we will answer it," said the President.

Whether attending the ceremony at

Peterson, downtown Pueblo, CO, Ellis Island or somewhere else - it was noted how important it is to remember the sacrifices of those who have gone before us. As President Bush would later say after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, "it taught our children about sacrifice." It showed us that "we owe them (those lost) and their children, and our own, the most enduring monument that we can build - a world of liberty and security made possible by the way America leads and by the way Americans lead our lives."

9-11 will forever go down as one of the single bloodiest days in the history of this nation, but it will always be a reminder of this country's character as well. That hundreds of firefighters died while trying to save others, and plane passengers overtook terrorists, disregarding their own safety, to potentially save thousands. That men and women wearing this country's uniform are putting their lives on the line today, fighting the cause against terrorism, and for the ideals of freedom and peace everywhere around the world.

Left: Peterson Air Force members pay respect as the flag is lowered to half mast Wednesday's memorial ceremony.
Below: Two base firefighters stand at attention as they wait to raise the flag.



A year ago, a lifetime ago

By Gen. Lance Lord
Commander, Air Force Space Command

It was a year ago when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and much has happened to us Americans since that day, especially those of us in the military. Sept. 11 has become our generation's Pearl Harbor. We, like those listening to the radio that Sunday morning in 1941, will always remember where we were and what we were doing that day.

The images of that day, of terror and the heroism that followed, will be forever etched on my memory because I saw it firsthand. I was there in the Pentagon when the third plane hit.

We had gathered that Tuesday morning for our usual staff meeting for the Air Force chief of staff. The Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James Roche and others from the secretariat and Air Staff were in attendance. I was the assistant vice chief of staff and Gen. John Jumper, our new chief of staff, had just started his first official duty day. We had

just gone through the intelligence briefing when one of the technicians turned the briefing screen on to CNN. A plane had hit one tower of the World Trade Center and we sat mesmerized by the scenes of billowing smoke. As soon as the second plane hit the tower, the chief closed his book and said: "We're under attack." We all sat there in stunned disbelief for a few seconds, then we quickly went back to our offices. On our way back, we heard there was another plane inbound to Washington. That's all we knew.

I was in the vice chief's office, next to mine, when we heard a dull thud and felt some sort of shock or vibration. Alarms started going off.

Since one of my duties included building evacuation in case of emergency, I went out in the hall to do what I could. Someone was yelling: "A bomb went off! A bomb went off!" We worked on the other side of the building from where the plane had hit so we knew little of the real situation. I went up and down the E-ring, shouting: "Everyone evacuate! Please get out of the building!" Fortunately, we had practiced an evacuation of the building during a mass casualty exercise just a month earlier, so our assembly points were fresh in our minds. Purely a coincidence, the scenario for that exercise included a plane hitting the building.

We couldn't tell what had happened until we

got out of the building and saw the black smoke coming over the top of the Pentagon. People who had evacuated were milling around, at first not knowing what to do. I told them to go home, if they had their keys, and to take someone with them. As I went back into the building, past the police keeping those evacuated from returning, there was an electrical burning smell in the air and I saw someone running down the corridor. His front was black from the soot and fire and I noticed that, oddly, his back was just fine. It was untouched.

I saw people taking it upon themselves to help out. Some put blankets on those who were hurt while others directed the flow of people. I saw people comforting each other in the parking lot; it didn't matter who they were. I saw chaos; but not panic. Later that night, I saw Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld walking down the corridor; shirtsleeves were rolled up...dirty from helping people.

I realized then, as others did, that this single event had awakened us from our routine lives. It was an amazing transformation. The nation was once again reminded how important those who serve really are. Everyone, regardless of job, was critical to the response and the team really came together.

On this anniversary, I suspect we'll see many images in the papers and on TV from a year ago and it's good to remember that day.

Along with the scenes of chaos in New York, the destruction at the Pentagon, and the heroism over Pennsylvania, it's important to remember two things - America is strong and we are fortunate to serve this great country. Defending our values and freedoms is a noble goal and I'm proud to serve with you.

Photo by Dennis Plummer



Photo by Dennis Plummer

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave





Peak Performer

Senior Airman Tonya Hodges
Organization: 21st Space Wing
Unit: Wing Plans Office
Duty Title: Support Agreement Manager
Time in Service: 5 years, 10 months
Hometown: Miami, Fla.
Off-duty interests: Volleyball, gymnastics, and horseback riding.
Accomplishments: With a line number

for staff sergeant, I recently graduated from Airman Leadership School. I also gave birth to my wonderful son Ty, who was born March 3 of this year.
Why did you join the Air Force? My dad was in the Air Force. Every morning as I would see him get ready for work, I could see a look in his eyes that spoke of his dedication to his country. I was so

proud of him and I wanted to follow in his footsteps.
What inspires you to do what you do? When people approach me and thank me for serving in the Armed Forces and protecting America, I feel so inspired and gratified. It makes me feel so terrific and proud to wear the Air Force uniform.
What goals have you set for the future? To be the best mother possible, have a successful military career, and to pursue my degree in computer networking.



Senior Airman
Tonya Hodges



Interested in Air Force opportunities?

Contact Air Force Recruiting Service
at www.airforce.com or 800-423-USAF



Silver Spruce Golf Course Championship

Right: Leroy Sutton tees off on hole seven, trying for the \$20,000 hole-in-one prize at the Silver Spruce Golf Course Championship Labor Day weekend. The \$20,000 was just one of several prizes that golfers had a shot at during the championship; unfortunately, no one was able to cash in on the opportunity this year.

Below: Jim Sisneros putts on hole 18. Sisneros finished in first place, winning the course championship. Billy Standridge finished second, and Jason Weber ended third. The top eight players from the course championship will represent Silver Spruce Golf Course at the city team championship at Cherokee Ridge Golf Course Sept. 29.



Photos by Warren Schroeder